

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a selenium yeast product for use in food, dietary supplements, or drugs, whereby said yeast is cultivated on a minimal medium under aerobic conditions, ~~characterised by~~ comprising the steps of

a) cultivating the yeast, which includes

- i) nutrients being fed to the yeast during the cultivation to an extent corresponding to the consumption of said nutrients in the yeast;
  - ii) glucose and/or maltose being the sole sources of carbon in the feeding medium;
  - iii) the concentration of ethanol during the cultivation not exceeding 1%, preferably 0.5% and most preferably 0.2%;
  - iv) the pH value during the cultivation being maintained at between 4.0 and 6.0, preferably between 4.4 and 5.7, most preferably between 4.7 and 5.4, such as 5.0; and
  - v) an aqueous salt of selenium being admixed to the feeding medium in an amount corresponding to between 1000 and 1500 ppm of selenium, calculated on dry matter in the yeast;
- b) isolating the yeast obtained in step (a).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising the isolation including harvest by way of centrifuging or filtration.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising including the steps of:

- c) washing the yeast cells from step (b),
- d) heat treating the yeast cells from step (c), and
- e) optionally drying the product from step (d).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3,~~  
~~characterised by claim 1 further comprising~~ the minimal medium being composed of raw  
materials of a pharmaceutical quality.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4,~~  
~~characterised by claim 1 further comprising~~ the yeast including a species of the genus  
*Saccharomycetaceae*, preferably *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces boulardii*  
*sequela* and/or *Saccharomyces torula*.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 5, ~~characterised by~~  
wherein the yeast being is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A selenium yeast product for use in food, dietary  
supplements or drugs, ~~characterised by comprising~~

- a) a content of organic selenium compounds corresponding to a range of between 1000 and 1600 ppm of selenium, preferably between 1100 ppm and 1500 ppm of selenium, most preferably between 1200 ppm and 1400 ppm of selenium,
- b) the content of 1-selenomethionine constantly constituting at least 55% of the total selenium content, and the content of selenium in inorganic selenium compounds not exceeding 1 % of the total selenium content,

c) the selenium yeast product being obtainable by cultivating a yeast culture seeded with a pure culture of a *Saccharomyces* sp., preferably *S. cerevisiae*, *S. boulardii sequela*, and/or *S. torula*, by adding sources of carbon, nitrogen and selenium in amounts per time unit corresponding to the amount which can be absorbed in the yeast during a predetermined time period, and the cultivation taking place in minimal medium exclusively including purified, homogeneously defined nutrients in form of raw materials which are described in pharmacopoeia.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A selenium yeast product according to claim 7, characterised by being obtainable comprising producing said selenium yeast product by the method according to any of claims 1 to 6 to claim 1.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A use of the selenium yeast product according to claim 7 or 8 for A method for preparing a food product comprising adding said selenium yeast product according to claim 7 to said food product.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A use of the selenium yeast product according to claim 7 or 8 A method for preparing a dietary supplement comprising adding said selenium yeast product according to claim 7 to said dietary supplement.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A use of the selenium yeast product according to claim 7 or 8 A method for preparing a drug comprising adding said selenium yeast product according to claim 7 to said drug.